"Montani Semper Liberi!"

VOL. 16, NO. 40

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TIT FOR TAT.

Maggie, my lass, I gaun awa To hae a wee bit tripust doon the Clide a mile or tw I couldna let it it slip. Some ither day ye'll hae yer spell, I'm sure ye'll no complain, e ken the minister himsel Said you an' I are ane."

Awa he gaed, syne Maggie thocht, That's kind o' queer o' Jock, Weel, wit's the best when dearly boo Just wait till sax o'clock. I'll wind ye sie a pirn, my lad, Ye ll wish ye had na gane. The gamest cock that ever crawed

May meet a master, ane." When Jock come hame the fire was oc Na supper could he see, Maggie ne'er put hersel aboot, "Whaurs my supper?" quo' he.

Supper?" quo Meg, "I've just had I wonder ye confplain. The thouch o' that should do ye fine

Sin' you and I are are.' -Home Journal.

XVIII. County Sketches.

THE GOLD-BUG.

Junior Grant is the man to whom we refer when we speak of the gold-bug, and the reader is asked to wade through this prosy and practical exposition of facts before judging whether the name is well chosen or not. If not, he will not be the first to suffer under this designation, which from the nature of recent political events has become something like an epithet.

history opens was a man aged twenty-nine, and by profession a surveyor and lawyer; and to his name there hangs a tale. His father was an Englishman who came to this country to fight in the great civil war, and who remained to do something to keep soul and are bound to tell things as they representing years of savings marry and settle in the mountains body together. He had gotten out are, and the man who does this would be to them the value of West Virginia. He had invest. of the surveying line and that work can not hope to keep within the of a lump of coal. ed his entire patrimony in a mountain farm and was beginning to think that he was established for life when a man came by with papers to show that he had an older title, unbroken, and from the commonwealth for the land that Junior Grant's father had thought he owned. With his inherent reverto the prior claim, for it was an

the county in which they lived. There was a time in this country when a man was monarch of all he surveyed, it might be said, and

defeated the older title, the owner but it was generally understood that the shotgun was to be the

came to that. Grant became enthused over the names on their offspring, called his

young son Junior Grant, The stranger's scheme was evilently a blackmailing venture, for the farmers, but was repulsed by them all. Finally Grant bought out the pretensions of the stranger for \$100 and became the owner of the Bixler Survey; and had a shadow of a claim to a million acres. It may be that he knew that the anexpected often happens in law. or the existence of the claim prevented him from enjoying perfect peace in his possessions, but the fact remains that having found the title to the old survey was' in the stranger, he 'secured a good deed to what there was to deed.

When he died his estate went to pay his debts and the old survey was all that descended to his son Junior Grant, it not being cousidred of enough importance to be called an asset.

marked by the broad arrow.

unembarrassing he must avoid first white man to visit it. the fullest extent.

ity presented itself. title if accompanied by possession of land to one another. It was a out it would not be missed. Then court of last resort with them if it

he was practically the owner. knew the country, and he was told progressive had made up his mind by all that such a thing as a per- to shadow him, he went east and en timber, laurel patches, and want tain kept its secret. of water made it so that a bear eould not walk over it, as they expressed it, and if attempted there was nothing to be seen and nothing to be found.

Junior Grant thought of redeeming the land by paying the back taxes for a century or two. but he must know if there was anything on the land to make it worth doing this.

Preparing provisions for several days he started for the top of Pan- and being a conscientious man the afraid I'm going to have a wife." stack, sah. Dat 's what it means!" Adademy, W. V

Junior Grant grew up and devel- ther Mountain. The first day he matter was giving him some trouoped into a man of good mind but had only partially ascended the ble. He saw all the business transunwilling muscles. He was a very mountain side, so difficult was the actions of the day based upon lazy white man. He had become a work of climbing it. He saw no gold and saw how absorbed every competent surveyor but the pro- signs of animal file whatever. Not man was in its pursuit. He saw fession was too laborious. He had a bird or beast seemed to inhabit an era when a few tons of gold found it decidedly uncomfortable the region. He had no water that from his mines would have enabled to work through the burnt woods night and would have returned him to have controlled the governon hot summer days with parched had be not thought it was as easy ment of the country. A few tons throat and tired body, on the to go on as to turn back. The next of the basis of financial operations search for some distant corner tree day he reached the top of the would have made him the power mountain and found the mystery behind the throne. He turned his back on a profes of the vacant land explained. He But the thought of the gold desion in which he could have always looked down into an immense cra- posit of Panther Mountain becomsecured work, to the more hazard- ter. The mountain-top was divid- ing known made him fearful that

ous chance of practising law. An ed and scooped out, leaving a deep by making gold common the boteasy going judge put him through valley of several thousand acres. tom would drop out of the finana little catechising such as his The surveyors had projected lines cial system, and men would be rich knowledge of land laws as a sur- along the summit, and one line lay or poor according to their abiliveyor enabled him to answer, and along the crater and the other on ties. He consulted thinking mensigned a paper licensing him. the other side, missing the deep great statesmen whose only object True the learned judge had tried hole that went down into the very was to give the people a good govto branch out a little by asking heart of the mountain. This then ernment. He would propound this him who Blackstone was, but when was the land he had discovered. hypothetical case, which in view Junior Grant replied that he was Some hunter may have seen this of the prominence money metals the law professor at the University wonderful formation. but in view were taking in public discussions of Virginia, the Judge saw that if of later developments it; seems cer- caused no comment: he would keep the conversation tain that Junior Grant was the "Suppose that an inexhanstible

topics with which his young friend He descended the side of the and that gold could be propuced was unfamiliar. Two other judges mountain and was relieved to find at about the cost of producing signed the license without examin- some water. He went lower and coal, and freight trains could be ing him, on the strength of their near the bottom of the valley he seen with the cars heaped high colleague's signature, and all qui- found a cave and thought that he with the metal like coal cars; what eted their consciences by remark- would make that his camping effect would that have upon civiliing that if people wanted inexpe- place for the night. His eye caught zation? rienced men to attend to their bus- the form of a coiled rattlesnake in iness it was a pity to deprive them this retreat and as the warning sig- "It would ruin the world. It would of the privilege. It can be truth- nal was given by the snake he repudiate every debt both public fully said of him that he had a nice stooped to pick up a stone to kill and private and there would be no easy time as a lawyer, with very it, and was surprised to find he such thing as confidence or co-op-Junior Grant at the time this little money it is true, but a wealth could not lift it. The snake crawleration either in governmental afof leisure time that he enjoyed to ed into a fissure and he examined fairs or in private business. The the stone and found it to be gold. whole machinery of civilized life

even the best lawyers in the coun- of the history where the reader would work a year for something ty saw starvation staring them in may allow a little unbelief to creep equivalent to a lump of coal. the face, and Junior Grant had to in, but we can not help that. We The invested wealth of men.

who ran each line with care in. It was gold! Pure virgin gold, cities would starve. The tillers of stead of "projecting" as had been of standard weight and fineness! the soil, the hunter, the fisherman his custom whenever an opportun- Grant could not be mistaken, for and the stockraiser would be the while men may think they have only people who could survive and It was about this season when found gold in many a bright glit- a discovery such as you speak of he was suffering from an enlarged tering piece of mica, when they see would so disorganize the world board bill and insufficient ward gold they know it. No previous that every man would have to find robe that he conceived a truly experience is needed. It is recog-food for himself and dependents ence for ancient things, and espect brilliant idea. It was connected nized by the novice as readily as like the birds of the mountain or ially older titles, Grant was alarm- with the old Bixler survey. His by the expert. Valuable from time the beasts of the forests." ed. There were a number of farm- knowledge of law led him to be- immemorial gold is not confined to ers in the same condition relative lieve that while the title he held any particular locality. Here in Said No. 2: "The government was not good against the numer- this valley Grant found that the would control the output and only immense affair taking in, most of ous tracts of land lying within the boulders and cliffs were pure gold. produce such amounts as would rethe land in the northern part of bounds of the old survey, yet if he Gold could be mined and quarried. duce all other governments to begcould find any vacant land where There was in sight of him a hun- gary. When this became apparent contiguous tracts did not fit snug- dred times as much gold as was the other countries would fight us thing else to do." Out of work and ly then he could own it by pay- hoarded by the people of the world for the possession of this mine and money and unwilling to burden ing up back taxes. He secured an and the whole valley was filled it would involve the whole world friends longer, he decided to write or and the bone was carefully if the taxes had been paid the ti- immense sheet of paper which he with it. At the present market in war. It would be like disputes tles would probably be good today. tacked on the top of a large table price there was enough gold in over the possession of the red Grant was relieved to learn that and went to work with infinite that valley to buy the whole world, pipe-stone quarry between the in Virgenia land law the younger care to fit the many shaped tracts and if that amount had been taken American Indians." sort of a Chinese puzzle, only came Junior Grant's season of

> Very few men who make money He believed in spending money and investing it. He did not lend money and set no store by cash. ney and that under some circumstances the words might not be

supply of gold were to be found;

Said Great Statesman No. 1 But there came a season when We are now coming to a portion would be out of order and no man

Said No. 3: "It would revoluof which had not had continuous when they fitted perfectly he lost, work, the last hard labor of his tionize the world. It would dispel in that city some years ago. In the skin together with antiseptic possession. The good title is technically known among land lawyers himself near the end of his task, pard work a ton of the metal to a would be found to be based upon little wave of excitement went as the junior grant. All this was with an immense vacant place on point where it was possible to the fancy of the people. While it through the crowd of newspaper explained to the group of farmers the map for which he could not reach it with a pack mule. During would overturn the existing order men on the entrance of a distinwho had clubbed together to hire find any tract or tracts of land up- those weary days he did some deep of things and agitate the nations guished looking man. This was a lawyer. They stood ready to on the records of the county. If thinking and he became a gold- of the world, it would reveal the the famous Col. --. He was at fight the stranger in the law courts his work was accurate, here lay an bug. He cached his treasure at a truth and make the people free. the top of the ladder. In a conimmense tract of country of which safe place and went back to the All men would start again on an versation he said he had been runcounty - seat. There for a few equal footing and each would ren- ning a West Virginia weekly and The vacant land lay on Panther months he presented the picture der to the commonwealth accord. decided that seven days a week Mountain in an almost inaccessi- of genteel poverty and at last ing to his ability. No want of were better than one day a week, ble district. From what he could starved out. He went to Colorado chance or unequal distribution of and so had come to Pittsburg law of junior grants, and being one learn from the nature of the coun- and engaged in mining. He seem- wealth would present itself as an where he had worked ever since. of those men who think it proper try it was so rough and wild that ed lucky for in a year he had for- insurmountable barrier to any man to inflict grotesque and fantastic in all probability the land had warded to the mints of the govern- who desires to get on. And what never been properly surveyed but ment nearly a million dollars worth is more," the statesman added, had found that there was to be no that the lines had been projected of gold. The miners who knew "when the world is ripe for such a day of the week for him. in many instances, and if that were him saw he did not work his claim change, I believe that such a thing so there was a good chance that a very much and believed that his will come to pass and gold, which he endeavored to compromise with large body of land had not been frequent prospecting trips were to has little intrinsic value, will take taken. He spent several days ver- a hidden mine, and that his claim its proper place, and all things will ifying his work by persons who was a blind, but just as the most be valued according to their kind."

> And Junior Grant still bears sonal examination of the land was lived the life of a man of fortune with him the secret that would all but impossible. The rocks, fall- in New York, and Panther Moun- shape the destiny of his race, and in his indolent way lets matters drift. He dreads the discovery which is bound to come sooner or have the faculty of enjoying it, but later, and rather chooses to "en-Junior Grant was not of this kind. dure the ills we have than fly to others we know not of."

He had worked on the problem pressing his hand to his side, "I'm 'leman cow sleepin' aside a hay

DIBDIN'S GHOST.

Dear wife last midnight whilst I read The tomes you so despise, A spectre rose beside the bed And spoke in this true wise: From Canaan's beatific coast-I 've come to visit thee.

says Dibdin's ghost to me. bade him welcome and we twain Discussed with buoyant hearts The various things that appertain To bibliomaniae hearts: Since you are fresh from t'other sid Pray tell me of that host

for I am Frognail Dibdin's ghost."

That treasured books before they died Says I to Dibdin's ghost. They 've entered into perfect rest, For in the life they 've won here are no auctions to molest, No creditors to dun! Their heavenly rapture has no bonne

Beside that jasper sea: It is a joy unknown to Lownes," Said Dibdin's ghost to me. Much I rejoiced to hear him speak Of biblio-bliss above. For I am one of those who seek What bibliomaniacs love. But tell me, for I long to hear, What doth concern me most,

Says I to Dibdin's ghost. The women folk are few up there, Tor 't were not fair, you know, That they our heavenly joy should

Are wives admitted to that sphere?

Who vex us here below. The few are those who have been kind To husbands such as we: 'hey knew our fads and didn't mind Said Dibdin's ghost to me.

But what of those who scold at us When we would read in bed? Or, wanting victuals, make a fuss If we buy books instead; And what of those who 've dusted no Our motly pride and boast? Shall they profane that sacred spot?" Says I to Dibdin's ghost.

"Oh, no! They tread that other path Which leads where torments roll, And worms, yes, book-worms, vent their wrath

Upon the guilty soul! Intouched by bibliomaniac grace That saveth such as we, They wallow in that dreadful place Says Dibdin's ghost to me. To my dear wife will I recite

What things I 've heard you say: She'll let me read the books by night, She 'll let me buy by day; For we, together, by and by, Would join that heavenly host; She's earned a rest as well as I," Says I to Dibdin's ghost. Eugene Field, in Chicago Record.

ALL THAT WAS LEFT.

In Pittsburg Charles T. Dawson, West Virginian, who had been a newspaper man in that city for twenty years, committed suicide by turning on the gas, because having failed to find work, "There was no the regulation letter to the coroner and give up the fight. It is the story of the failure of

an ambitious man to succeed by going to the city. It is the other side of a picture that was observed

the coroner had had the same experience up to a certain point, but -In a Southern school the oth-

er day the teacher asked the class what bulldezing meant. The faces before him became absolutely blank; no one dared to guess the meaning of such a strfinge word. The teacher had hardly expected the correct definition, nevertheless much better than well behaved solfelt that with a little coaching diers. Dr. Marty does not imply some little fellow might strike it right. "You see it every day," said he, "every day of your life." An expression of intelligence passed over the face of a little colored boy. "Why, Sam Davis knows," -A Sunday-school teacher not remarked the instructor. "Tell He believed there might be a vast long ago gave her class a rather me, Sam, what does bulldozing difference between wealth and mo- graphic description of how Eve mean?" "It means it means," he was created from the rib of Adam. he sitated and looked out of the Meel, one pocket book containing "Mamma," said the youngest mem- window as if to refresh his memo-

A Fight and Its Consequences.

A terrible battle was recently waged in the aquarium at Bayeux between two erccodiles, who tore each other's hindlegs off in a struggle, while hundreds of visitors tooked on. It was a thrilling scene for those who happened to be present in the aquarium when the two brutes engaged each other. According to the keeper they were comfortably sleeping on the sanded floor, where they had been on exhibition for many years, and the flies were buzzing around just as though the two amphibians were pine logs. Presently Jacques, the younger, opened his eyes and glanced sideways at Pierri, who slept on unconcernedly. Whether in a moment of playfulness or whether to balance some grudge dating back to the Nile and freedom, will never be known, but the pext instant Jaques whipped his tail across Pierri's nose, and, with a lunge, closed his powerful jaws on the left hind leg of his associate. Pierri was awake in a second. A rush of air escaped from his throat like the roar of a blast furnace, and with a a deep clap as if a trip-hammer had closed its jaws, he buried his teeth in the right hind leg of his

antagonist. Their armored tails whipped the air and struck the sand like huge flails swung by powerful arms. Writhing, rolling, straining and biting as the air whistled through their nostrils, they fought from side to side of the cage, never letting go for an instant.

Only the cracking of bones brought them to their senses, for in the thickest of the strife Pierri tightened his grip on Jacques' leg, and his teeth crashed through the femur bone of the offending one. Jacques curved like a bow and bit back with the same results, munching Pierri's mangled joint in his frenzy.

This separated the two, and they lashed themselves around the inclosure, splashing each other with blood. The space in front of the crocodiles' cage was so congested with spectators that the keepers had to fight their way through to get a veterinary surgeon, who was summoned as soon as the combatants were properly separated and tied down. So that they could be operated upon. The work of amputating the two shattered limbs was very delicate, indeed. Strong straps were brought in to hold the crocodiles down The flesh was cat away under the heavy armsawed off while the thick epidermis was rolled back against the body. Then arose the problem of

how to sew up the overlap. It was finally compromised by punching holes with a brad awl and sewing linen twine and a sack needle. Neither crocodile evinced the slightest concern during the oper-

ation, and merely blinked and blinked while it was going on. To all appearances they were not even aware that anything unusual had happened. The blood was washed out of their eyes and away from their jaws, and the two fighters were separated for all time. A careful record is being kept of their condition, and the veterinary assures the keepers that Jacques and Peierri will get welf, and suffer no great distress beyond that of baving to stump around on three feet instead of four .- New York Journal.

-Dr. J. Marty, a French criminologist, has recently made an examination of 4,000 delinquent soldiers of the French army, and has found that in height, weight breast measure, muscular power and general condition, they averaged that criminals are by nature bette physically than non-criminals, but suggests that the condition of criminal families is so much more wretched than respectable ones, that only the uncommonly strong survive.

Lost.

Between Marlinton and Academy, on March 24, by Henry Mc nder will receive snitable reward ber of the class that same evening, ry-"dat dere word means a gen- by returning it to F. T. McClintic,